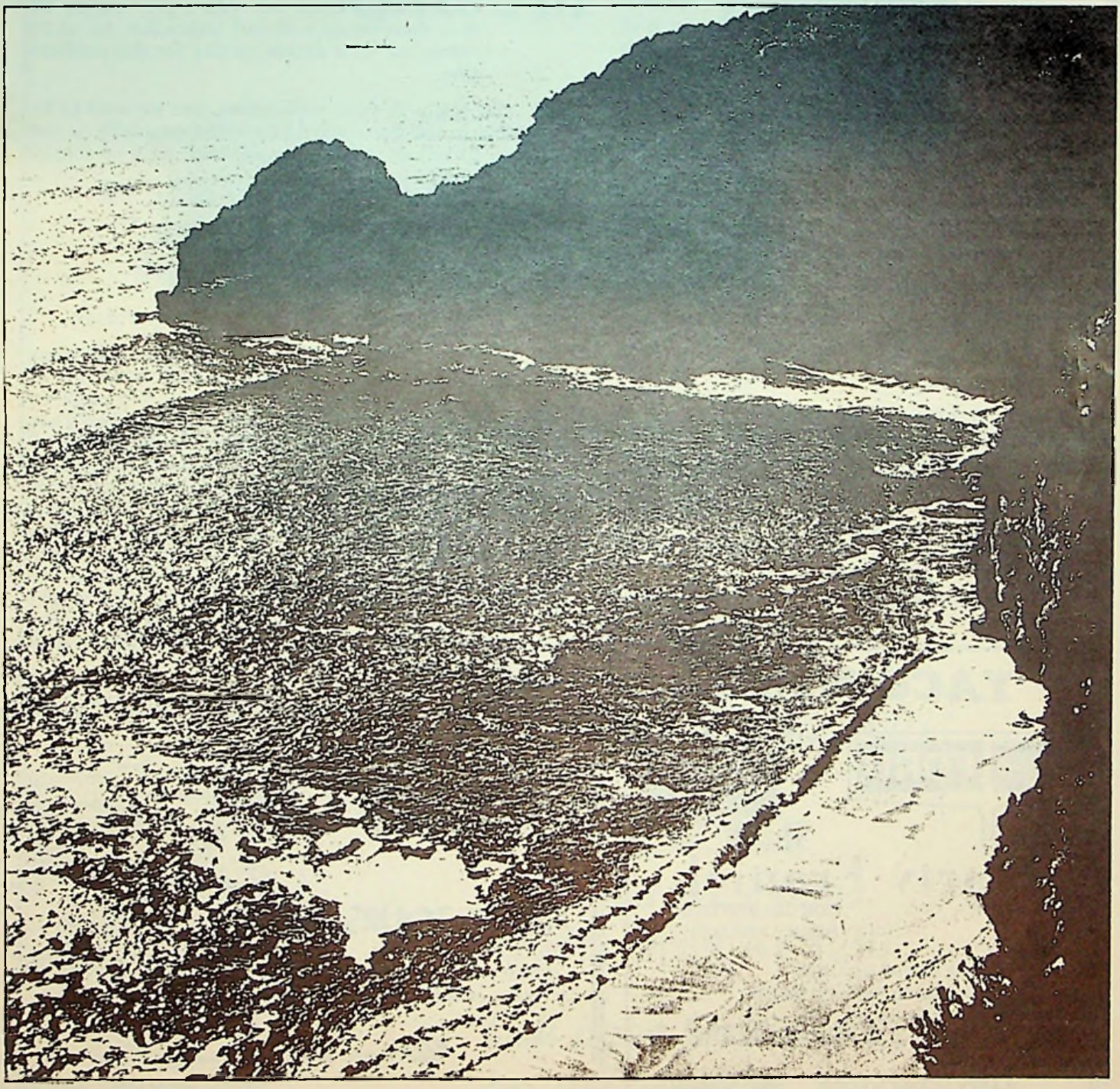
the KALIFORNSKI

Since 1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, California 95077 — No. 94 April 1987
(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS, & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION) — Circulation: 425

EDITORS: Dale Skillicorn and Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn
Contact at Rapid Offset Printing, 22 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, California 95076 — (408) 724-2900



The Mogren Beach at Budva (Montenegro) – *Photo: Revue Magazine*

EDITOR'S NOTE

Taking over the job of Editors the first of this year (see, Pat . . . it took two of us to replace you), we have been spending part of the time going over material and articles submitted last year but not yet used in the Kalifornski. Seeing why some of this was not used when submitted makes us realize that we need to explain a few "ground rules" and helpful hints on material that is submitted to be shared in the Kalifornski. So here are a few things to keep in mind when you send us material and articles:

1. The Kalifornski, following the policy originally established by YACO, will not include material of a political or religious nature (unless it is of historical interest only). This rule has to do with the non-profit status of the organization, as well as a desire to respect the individual philosophies of the YACO membership.
2. Bylined articles from general distribution newspapers and magazines are copyrighted and to be safe, we do not like to use such material unless we obtain an OK from the original publication. This is usually not a problem and several articles, such as a series written by Wally Trabing of the Santa Cruz Sentinel, will probably be appearing in the Kalifornski very soon. (Yea! Sooner than I had expected! Just talked to Mr. Trabing and got his OK . . . and he may be interested in doing an article in the near future about the Yugoslavs in our area.)
3. When you submit articles from newspapers, try not to fold the page across any pictures. The fold leaves a crease and ruins our ability to include a decent copy of the picture with its article. If what you send is too large to fold easily into a regular envelope without creasing the pictures, please try to use one of the larger flat envelopes. Also, if you send a photocopy (xerox, etc.), try to send one of the "plain paper" type of copy. Copies which come out with a grey quality all over them become almost impossible for us to reproduce with decent quality for this publication.

This really IS your publication, and we want to be able to use the material you send us, so if you can try to follow the above guidelines, we'll be able to share what you send.

thanks,
Dale and Jan

P.S. –
Almost forgot one of the most important!

We've been trying to include a few small items in the Serbo-Croatian language each issue, but if you submit such material, plaese try to provide an english language translation if at all possible. That way we can share the material with ALL readers of the Kalifornski. (For three months we've been telling our readers that "next month we'll include an article titled 'Posjet Zemlji Jabuka' – 'A Visit to the Land of Apples' – which appeared last Fall in Zagreb's VIKEND magazine. It is an account of the writer's visit to our own Pajaro Valley and mentions many local Yugoslavs by name." – Well . . . the only reason you haven't read it yet is because we are still waiting for the english translation so EVERYONE can read it. – Any volunteers?

DR. RONALD P. BROOKS (Talijancich)

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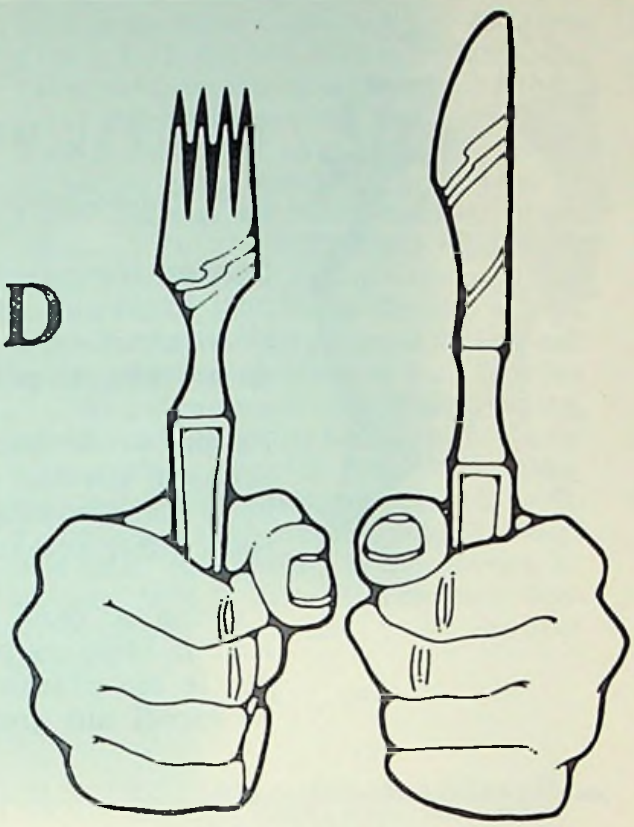
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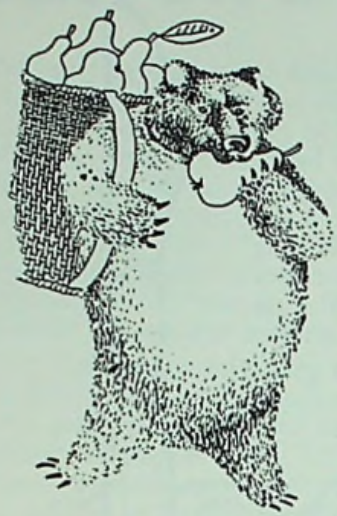
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TRGOVAC MEDO

by ratko zvrko

Šumom ide medvjed star,
nosi kruške na pazar,
al' strahuje medo stari,
da se roba ne pokvari.

Pa čim prođe korak, dva,
zbunjen, zdvojan stati zna,
kako stane, svakog puta
robu kuša, kruške guta.

I čudna se zgodi stvar:
Kad je stigo na pazar
već je bio prazan koš;
ne zaradi niti groš.

The author Ratko Zvrko — who has relatives in the Pajaro Valley — was born in 1920 in DRVENIK - KONAVLE near Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. He now lives in Zagreb and is a reporter for Zagreb's Vjesnik newspaper. He is one of the most famous Yugoslav children's song writers. The following songs are from his book collection.

If anyone is interested in purchasing his books, please write John Basor at 728 Tuttle Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076 or call him at 408 - 724-2169.

Additional Paid Members —
February 9 - March 15, 1987

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M/M John Sien
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Stella Lucich
John Vidolin
Branko Jovicevic
Betty Jones
Mira Udovch



Ann and Pete Cernokus on their 50th wedding anniversary.

AT A BLACK-TIE PARTY Dec. 6, Ann and Peter Cernokus, of Watsonville, celebrated 50 years of marriage. The party was hosted by their daughter, Diane Meadows, of Alameda.

The Cernokuses arrived at the Watsonville Woman's Club in a stretch limousine, a gift from close friends.

More than 150 friends joined them inside for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner and dancing to the music of Just Friends. The honored couple started off the celebration by dancing to their song, "They Tried to Tell Us We're Too Young."

Among the guests who traveled from as far away as Oregon, Washington and Texas, was Mary Maikovich, of Reedly, Mr. Cernokus' 84-year-old aunt.

Holiday decorations in the clubhouse included red, white and gold floral arrangements done by the couple's niece Joann Papagni, of Fresno. A collage of pictures depicting the couple's life over the years was compiled by their niece Sherry Cernokus.

As a memento of the evening, the couple's daughter and friends Jared and Sue Myers gave them a videotape of the celebration.

The Cernokuses, both natives of Fresno, were married in Fresno on Dec. 6, 1936. They moved to Watsonville shortly afterward and have lived here since.

Mr. Cernokus retired from Sears Schuman Farms, where he was a ranch supervisor for more than 40 years. Mrs. Cernokus worked as a meat department clerk for Safeway Stores for 25 years before her retirement in 1980.

Also in honor of their anniversary, the couple took a cruise through the Panama Canal. They visited Cartagena, Colombia, as well as Jamaica and Aruba.

— submitted by Pete and Ann (Vulich) Cernokus

Potpourri

presented as submitted by
BABE BRAUTOVICH HILL

I will start out by sending some good thoughts and positive energies; Judy Paljetak was in the hospital, and Kate Derpich is once again in the hospital, best wishes to both of you . . . On the 1st of March we showed the Watsonville Band Trip to Europe, well I guess we only saw a portion as it was a two hour film, some of us couldn't stay that long, but it looked like a fun trip, Mary Burdick thought maybe we would like to see the remainder at some other time, which is a good idea . . . you had better get on the ball if you want to help us eat stew on the 5th of April, the deadline will be the 29th of March. It will be served in a lobster loaf, with salad, and the drinks will be by donation, if only 25 people call for reservations, that will be all that Ron and Jerry will be cooking for so please call me (724-1284) and help support YACO . . . . For the July Picnic, we are going to raffle a round trip for one to Yugoslavia, or 500 dollars in cash, there will only be 200 tickets sold and they will sell for 10 dollars each, the drawing will be at the July Picnic, and you need not be present to win, call me, I will mail them to you . . . We had some monetary donations made at the Kupus dinner that I would like to acknowledge at this time, Thanks to Rose Santich, Luce Basor, Stella Lucich, and George Jurickovich . . . . Yugo/Cultural Club in Stockton will be having their first Big Potluck on the 12th of April at the Micke Grove Park and Zoo (area #12) in Lodi, call 942-2725 in Stockton . . . . I have not been able to get any more info on the 15 of Feb being declared "South Slav Day", it was in the Reg.Paj. on the 2/11/87 . . . I saw the picture of the Royal Grill in the paper on 3/7/87 and that was Nick Derpich??? on the right?? . . . YUGO-FEST, YUGO-FEST don't forget it October 4th, circle your calendar, and plan to attend. . . . . Happy Birthday to Luce Gospodnetich (who just got out of the hospital) and also Birthday greetings to Ruza Polovina . . . . We had two guests at the March meeting, Doris Cunha and Merita Balojevic, Thanks for coming girls . . . Familiar Faces: M/M Osorio, Katy Bjelokosich, Nina Matulich, Lena Derpich, Lucile Coxon, E. Korach, M. Gizdich, L. Basor, M/M Selak, N. Nicholas, A. Gulermovich, E. Knowles, M/M S. Zelac, E. Colendich, Gospodnetich and Jurickovich . . . see you next month

toodle . . . ooo

IN MEMORIAM
Steve Belick
Sunday, March 15, 1987

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Old Town Dubrovnik — a most livable city

Exciting Dubrovnic and a Roman Pula

DUBROVNIC, THE JEWEL, the Venice of the Balkans without the canals, a charmed city with the historical independence of Switzerland.

It is the kingpin of Yugoslavia's fast-growing image as Europe's holiday land.

Passing over the drawbridge and through the Gates of Pile, you enter a high walled wonderland, a gigantic fortress of the 14th and 16th centuries that is still occupied today by some 5,000 residents.

Dubrovnic is a Croatian city of stone upon stone, levels and stairs and winding passageways, thrust against the lapping waters of the Adriatic. Like Switzerland, it preserved itself over the centuries with clever diplomacy and cleverly traded with invading hordes. The city was not harmed.

No autos or stinking tour buses enter the city. All walking. It is a restful place. It was an enlightened city in the 1300s with a public health system, a hospital, orphanage and an old people's home. In 1319 a drug store was opened.

Franciscans and Dominicans have beautiful friaries here.

Once we spotted a cluster of daring Americans visiting for a few hours from a white cruise ship anchored off the coast. Otherwise we heard little english.

• • •

We spent three happy days here. The local tourist office, responding to our request, found us a private family residence. This can easily be done throughout Europe. It not only saves money, but more important, it places you directly into the social environment of the area you are visiting.

For about $29 a night we were welcomed into the home of Mrs. Juvancic Lucija (last names first), about 80. She lived just outside the massive walls, beside a gentle sea inlet, in a house of stone that clung to a great cliff. It reminded me of the cliff dwellers of Mesa Verde, Colo. Stone steps connected house levels. Our room upstairs let onto a large balcony (with clothesline). We were against a cliff and towering above the clifftop were the ancient walls of Fort Lovrijenac, known for its setting for Hamlet, often presented there.

Everywhere there were flowers that seem to grow out of the cliff houses around us. Lucija would throw up her arms in welcome each time we entered and bring out the plum brandy. She spoke enough English to say her family had lived here for five generations, and then we spoke of many things. The brandy helped.

• • •

There are ultra modern hill-hugging seaside hotels along the coast, and an updated Dubrovnic city, but we preferred the mood within the walled old city.

The main strolling street is the Stradum, which runs straight arrow to Luza square and the Renaissance-style bell tower. Bright geraniums, impatiens, and lobelia spilled from balconies; shops and boutiques discreetly blend into the stone walls of the streets. There are no glaring signs.

• • •

We liked Gunduliceva Plaza, deep in the heart of the old city. Named after the pigeon-violated statue of a Dubrovnic poet, there is a "Carmen" feeling of being on stage while restfully quaffing the local beer — shouts from the market stalls, scuffling children playing soccer amid the strollers; a babel of languages, and the high chorus-twitter of swallows wheeling in formation overhead.

• • •

We spent a magical evening in the Prince's or Rector's palace, a 1667 elegant Gothic structure to hear the Cajkouski trio (piano, violin and cello) from Moscow. The setting was in the atrium, open to the sky with a baroque staircase that wound upward to a balcony draped with young music students.

It is typical that concerts in this part of the world be given in cathedrals and palaces. Such surroundings create a feeling of living in another century.

The Russians, superb musicians, physically came out of their chairs, moved by a Shostakovitch or Beethoven passage. The pianist wove, his face reflecting the pain of his ecstacy.

We noted in a poster that the Cabrillo College Chorus was to appear here, but it never showed. Why?

Part of one day was devoted to a three-island tour — Kolocep, Sipan and Lopud. It was pleasant, but not very interesting. They are very laid back places. How laid back? I purchased cigarettes in a sleepy store on Sipan, but when I asked to buy matches, the owner said: "No matches. I don't smoke."

• • •

There is a "Football Street" in Dubrovnic. Some kids who play soccer on the tiny entrance to the Franciscan friary wrote this on the wall. I remember this because just down the steps, at the entrance to Prijeko street is a great restaurant with three tables perched precariously on cobblestones. Pigeons coo from ancient niches, kids march by singing, and at the next table a lady from Holland said her landlady, who had just become a widow, had ask to move into her $10 room because it was too sad to sleep alone. And the food made us happy to be alive. What a special place is this city.

• • •

Yugoslovia is a new country in an ancient setting. Until 1918 there was no Yugoslavia. It is a mixture of nations and cultures, each with their own heritage. This makes it an exciting country, for there is little uniformity to bore you. Five nationalities areinvolved. This makes for a wide variety of foods.

• • •

We made a mistake by taking a day and overnight ship run along the coast to Rijecka. We thought it would be interesting calling at various islands and watching the colorful coast. For $88 we had a small air-cooled cabin but the whole thing was rather boring, hot and stuffy. We think we would have seen more of the country by taking a bus inland, and perhaps trying to make the fascinating Postojna Caves which features an underground railway or to jewel-like Lake Bled.

• • •

From Rijecka, we caught a bus to Pula, a pleasing mountainous ride to the tip of the Istrian peninsula, that neighbors with Italy across the Adriatic. We booked at Hotel Riviera. From our balcony we could catch a corner of Pula's prize attraction, the great Roman amphitheater.

There are six coliseums in existance. Rome, Verona and Pompeii are three. The one at Pula is said to be the best preserved. And it's a beauty, 102 feet high. The sod was once soaked with the blood of felled gladiators, Christians and slaves. It could seat 23,000, completed in 70 A.D. We were to attend a ballet in the amphitheater but it was rained out.

• • •

The following morning, we had arranged to be transported to the town of Porec, a rustic sea-worn place, the hub of a string of tourist villages, camps, luxury hotels and nudist beaches. We were to pick up a hydrofoil and cross the Bay of Trieste to Italy's Venice.

But the guide overslept. She was frantic. She phoned the ship. She lied and told them important Americans were coming, hold the sailing. Then, she said, "They probably won't, but let's go for it!"

It was the Indianapolis 500 all the way, over a narrow rain-slick highway, halfway up the Istria peninsula. I blanched several times. In Porec we saw an empty harbor until my wife spotted a boat on the far side. But the only access was down a one-way street.

"Let's see what happens," said this marvelous determined tourist lady.

We saw. We met a garbage truck, two taxis, and one hysterical businessman, all of whom erupted in a cacophony of yakking, indicating that we were going the wrong way.

Well, we knew THAT!

We made the ship as the gangplank was being withdrawn.

We asked for one more minute's delay — so we could each give our beaming guide a bear hug.

• • •

Wally Trabing has long been a columnist for the Santa Cruz Sentinel. We extend our thanks to him for authorizing our reprinting of columns he wrote during his visit to Yugoslavia last year.

Copies of his columns were submitted to the Kalifornski by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Belick and Zarko Radich. Many thanks.

VESELI SELJACI NEWS

by NANCY BJELETICH

The countdown for our annual Veseli Seljaci concert is upon us! All of our children, teenagers, and those of us who don't care to discuss age are busily preparing for April 4. On that date we will present an evening of tamburitza music and dance.

If you have never attended our concerts you will be surprised at the variety the evening offers. Every year an entirely new program is presented featuring new songs, dances, and the costumes appropriate to the geographical area of the music's origin. Great effort is expended to provide representation of many regions of Yugoslavia in music, dance, and costume. A broad spectrum of mood, characteristic of tamburitza music, is also part of our concerts. Often tears and laughter are evoked within the same evening. The experience is a celebration of our cultural heritage in a once-a-year offering.

An added attraction is the dance which follows our concerts. It is your opportunity to join in a kolo or sing-along. Food and drink and pastries will be on sale.

The concert will be held at Napredak Hall, 770 Trimble Road in San Jose, just off Highway 880 (old Highway 17). The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 4th. Tickets are $6.00 for adults and $3.00 for children under 17 years of age.

Hope to see you on April 4th!

"VUK STEFANOVIĆ-KARADŽIĆ (1787 - 1864) AND HIS TIMES" INTERNATION SYMPOSIUM

submitted by Naida Nicholas

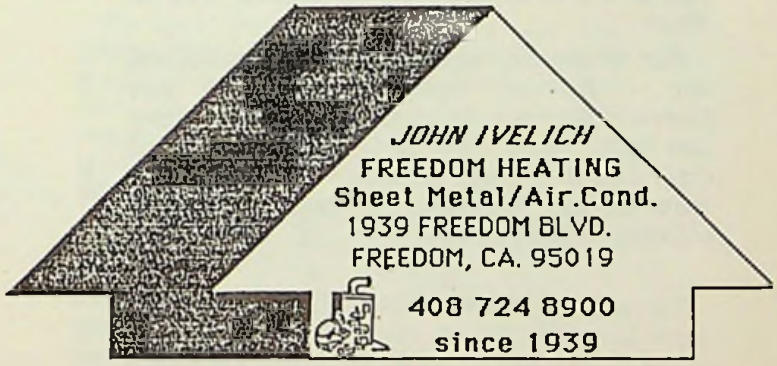
May 19 - 22, 1987 is scheduled for an International Symposium on the influential 19th-century Yugoslavian writer Vuk Stefanović-Karadžić. The sessions will be hosted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, with the Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as sponsor and organizer. The co-sponsors include the North American Society for Serbian Studies (NASSS), the Serbian Academic Club (Chicago), the Serbian Heritage Academy of Canada . . . and many Americans and Canadians who contributed funds for the Symposium.

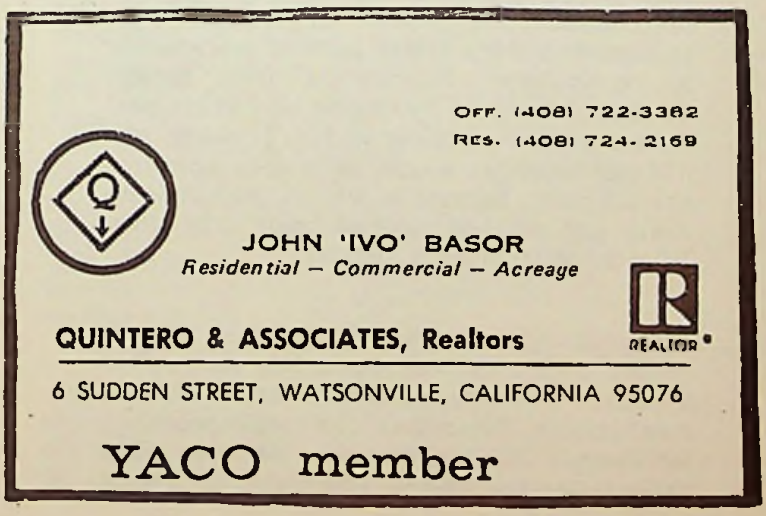
We will include a little more detailed information on the many workshops and discussion sessions in our next issue, but for those of you who may be interested in attending, you can get information on subjects and registration from:

Department of Slavic and Baltic
Languages and Literatures
University of Illinois at Chicago
Box 4348, 1228 UH (m/c 306)
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NOTICE !!!

All executive meetings will be held at the E.A. Hall School library (on Brewington) on every 2nd Wednesday from 7 - 9 p.m. until June 9th. Please come, one and all.

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ANDY & ANN SOLDO are your hosts and bring you the finest in old favorites as well as the very latest music from Yugoslavia. They will be happy to play any special requests you might ask for whether it be for birthday, anniversary, or for any special announcement.



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JOIN US TODAY

We earnestly invite you to join the YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION established in 1979.

We are a non-profit, non-political, and non-religiously oriented organization, and our main purpose for coming together was to simply bring the various members of the Slavic community at large together for their mutual cultural enjoyment.

We are very proud to have among our members, Yugoslav-Americans whose families came from the many different regions and republics of today's Yugoslavia. We also have many members who are non-slavic but enjoy, appreciate and support the slavic culture and its vast richness.

Our goals are as we mentioned before, ONLY to promote a cultural awareness and appreciation of our heritage as well as to bring Slavs and non-slavs together in a social and cultural atmosphere. Our programs include folk dances from all regions of Yugoslavia as well as slides and movie presentations, history lectures, folk singing (we have a singing group called "HARMONIJA" who perform not only for YACO functions, but celebrate marvelous performances for many other groups both locally and out of the city), language instruction, and other various cultural activities.

Won't you consider joining us for a good time as well as a very informative experience? All memberships include the receipt of this paper, THE KALIFORNSKI each month to keep you informed of YACO's activities and other informative news.

The nicest people belong to YACO and you'll be among them once you join.

Our dues are as follows:

Single membership $12.00
Family membership.....$18.00

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Husband: _____ _____

Wife: _____ _____

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Phone number: _____

Interests: _____

_____

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Yugoslav Background: _____

_____

Children under 18 included in Family Membership.

ATTENTION:

THE KALIFORNSKI is your publication. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see in any future issues, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you have any subjects relating to Yugoslav heritage or about Yugoslavs, here or abroad, that you would like to share or see published in this newsletter, please let us know. We would appreciate your input in publishing this newsletter each month. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us:

Dale Skillicorn and
Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn
c/o Rapid Offset Printing
22 East Lake Avenue
Watsonville, CA 95076
(408) 724-2900

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. Trips by YACO members
2. Visitors from the Old Country
3. Newspaper or magazine articles about Yugoslavia or Yugoslavs, local or abroad
4. Weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birth announcements, or special celebrations by YACO members
5. Civic or cultural contributions by Yugoslavs
6. Yugoslav recipes
7. Yugoslav songs, poetry or stories
8. Special family traditions for holidays, etc.
9. Yugoslav stories for children
10. Anything you think might be of interest to YACO members

NEW DEADLINE

A new DEADLINE has been set for the 10th of each month so that we might get the paper out even earlier. It seems that our members out of Watsonville are not receiving their KALIFORNSKI early enough to plan on attending any of our programs. Members in Watsonville receive their copies at least two days after mailing so it seems to be a problem with a hold up at the post office. If I don't have the information in time, I will not be able to publish it until the next issue. REMEMBER to send me any information by the 10th of each month.

OFFICERS

President:
RON HILL 724-1284

Vice President:
GEORGE JURICKOVICH.....722-4444

Secretary:
EMME COLENDICH 724-6986

Treasurer/Financial Secretary:
CAROLE GOSPODNETICH.....724-7652

Publicity Director:

No Paper?

If someone you know is not receiving the KALIFORNSKI, please let us know. We publish this for you, the membership, and would like each of you to have the opportunity to keep in touch with YACO. Contact us at Rapid Offset Printing, 22 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076 – (408) 724-2900.

Dale Skillicorn and Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn

CALENDAR

Apr. 5 Meeting (6p.m.) Stew Feed. V.F.W. Hall 150 tickets, reservations only. $8 adults, $4 children. Martin Santich. Raffle.

May 3 Meeting (7pm) Refreshments, Program, Scholarship Comm. V.F.W. Hall.

June 7 Meeting (6pm) Potluck. Parade Entry for 4th of July?

July 5 Annual B-B-Q – Top Sirloin, Beans, Salad, Desserts, Music. $10 adults, $5 children.

Aug. 2 Meeting (6pm) Macaroni & B-B-Q, Chicken Dinner. Reservations only, 150 tickets. V.F.W. Hall. $8 adults, $4 children. Martin Santich.

Sep. 6 Meeting (7pm) Entry for Apple Annual Parade, Food Booth Sept. 27th. Nomination Comm. V.F.W. Hall.

Oct. 4 Yugo-Fest – time & place to be announced.

Nov. 1 Meeting (7pm) Election of Officers. Refreshments, Program. V.F.W. Hall.

Dec. 6 Christmas Dinner (6pm) Reservations only, 150 tickets. Roast Pork, Potatoes, Onions, and all the trimmings. $10 adults, $5 children. Martin Santich



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